



# Schools Tree Day Early Learning – People Trees

## Introduction

Take your students outside to have a look at the trees and plants. Either on the butchers paper or on the pavement using chalk, draw a simple tree that the students can see. Talk to the students about the parts of the tree and see if they can relate it to their body parts: arms for branches, feet as roots, torso and legs as trunk, skin as bark, fingers as leaves.

The aim of this lesson is to help the children understand that trees are living things just like them! To help reinforce this idea use the interactive nursery rhyme below. Sing the following and accompany it with some “choreography” to help assist in the learning of the new words with associated body parts.



### Little Gum Tree (to the tune of I'm a little tea-pot)

*I'm a little gum tree,  
grown from a seed,  
Here is my trunk, and here are my leaves.  
When I get watered,  
watch me grow...  
I'm a little gum tree,  
With my roots down below!*

## Next make “people trees”

Draw the outline of each child lying down on spread out newspaper, butchers paper



or outside on the ground using chalk. With their outlines, the class can create people trees, colouring and decorating their trees. The legs together can be the trunk, and the feet out to the sides can act as roots. The arms can be arranged as branches and you can either leave the head off, or cover the head with leaves. The class could cut out and make leaves from paper to stick on their tree, or they could make leaf rubbings and stick them onto the tree. They can also decorate their people tree with flowers, gum-nuts or seed pods. They could also add some wildlife and other details to their tree, such birds, possums, squirrels and fallen leaves.

You can also print the Student Worksheet and get students to draw or write their name in the 'people tree' picture. They can then add some animals, people and other plants to the picture.

Following this lesson plan is an ideal way for your students to take part in the largest nature-care event in Australian schools, Planet Ark's Schools Tree Day. You'll be joining thousands of amazing people in making a difference, fostering a child's love of nature and creating positive environmental change. So, get growing! It only takes a minute to register at [treeday.planetark.org](http://treeday.planetark.org).



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